

CONCERNS REGARDING THE FINAL REPORT OF THE BALBOA VILLAGE CITIZEN ADVISORY PANEL

I have two main concerns regarding the final panel report that I would like to speak to at this time.

My biggest concern lies with the proposed Resident Parking Permit plan. This plan was formed to address the effect of people trying to avoid paying meters and parking in residential areas instead. The Walker study permit plan proposed to cover the area from Adams to Coronado St. for this purpose. The new proposal suggests new boundaries, stretching that original 3 block area to now cover 10 blocks, from Adams to 7th St.

The historic area of East Newport is NOT affected by people sailing on the Catalina Flyer, going fishing, or joining the bar crowd. It makes no sense to include us in this parking permit plan.

My recommendation would be to extend the permit area 5 blocks to include Medina Way, which would include the residential areas most affected by the parking problems listed above.

In addition, I would suggest allowing 2 hour free parking in the BID area, as Balboa Island does, especially during the winter months. That would encourage locals to patronize our own businesses, thereby strengthening them.

The second concern I have is in regard to the re-naming of Balboa, supposedly to make us more marketable.

The online poll that was devised to get ideas from the public was not well publicized. I have yet to find anyone in my neighborhood who had heard anything about it.

Even knowing about the survey did not make it easy to access. When I went to City Hall to ask about it, it took a Community Development Department staff member 20 minutes to be able to bring it up.

In the section regarding a name for Balboa, Balboa alone was not offered as a choice, indicating that the survey creators did not themselves value this historic name. The only way to make Balboa a choice, was to list it as a write-in.

Connecting "Fun Zone" to Balboa Village as proposed for our name, is awkward and silly sounding. Coming at a time when the Fun Zone itself is being down-sized even makes it out of touch with reality. Do you really think people are going to say they live in "Balboa Village Fun Zone"?

I appreciate having an opportunity to attend this meeting at this time of day, something I know many of my working neighbors can never do.

Thank you for listening to my concerns and taking them under consideration.
*Presented to the Neighborhood Revitalization Committee on June 28th, 2012
by Howard Hall, resident and property owner.*